

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(323) 881-2401

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

July 10, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT TO ENTER INTO A LEASE
AGREEMENT FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF A S-64E HELITANKER;
AND APPROVE THE APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT TRANSFERRING FUNDS
FROM THE FIRE DISTRICT'S DESIGNATION FOR BUDGET UNCERTAINTIES TO
THE OPERATIONS BUDGET UNIT TO FUND THE AGREEMENT
(ALL DISTRICTS) (4 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD, ACTING AS A THE GOVERNING
BODY OF THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES
COUNTY:**

1. Authorize the County Purchasing Agent to enter into a lease agreement with Erickson Air-Crane Co., L.L.C., of Central Point, Oregon, for the exclusive use of a S-64E Helitanker for 120 days effective as soon as possible, for an amount not to exceed \$2.5 million for the daily standby costs and flight hours.
2. Approve the attached Appropriation Adjustment to transfer \$2.5 million from the Fire District's Designation for Budget Uncertainties to the Operations Budget Unit to fund the lease agreement.
3. Approve an increase in spending authority for the Fire District's Contact Air Program from \$3.5 million to \$6.0 million.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS
ARTESIA
AZUSA
BALDWIN PARK
BELL
BELL GARDENS
BELLFLOWER
BRADBURY

CALABASAS
CARSON
CERRITOS
CLAREMONT
COMMERCE
COVINA
CUDAHY

DIAMOND BAR
DUARTE
EL MONTE
GARDENA
GLENDALE
HAWAIIAN GARDENS
HAWTHORNE

HIDDEN HILLS
HUNTINGTON PARK
INDUSTRY
INGLEWOOD
IRVINDALE
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA
LA PUENTE
LAKEWOOD
LANCASTER
LAWNDALE
LOMITA
LYNWOOD

MALIBU
MAYWOOD
NORWALK
PALMDALE
PALOS VERDES ESTATES
PARAMOUNT
PICO RIVERA

POMONA
RANCHO PALOS VERDES
ROLLING HILLS
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES
ROSEMEAD
SAN DIMAS
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL
SOUTH EL MONTE
SOUTH GATE
TEMPLE CITY
WALNUT
WEST HOLLYWOOD
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
WHITTIER

4. Direct the Fire Chief to return to the Board for additional expenditure authority should fire conditions or fire activity warrant an extension of the lease agreement.

PURPOSE / JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Since the Firestorms of 1993, the Fire Department has augmented its existing dual-purpose helicopters with initial attack aircraft solely dedicated to Wildland firefighting operations. The combination of increased air attack, improved pre-planning in high-risk areas, and the Brush Clearance Program has proven successful in terms of life and property protection.

Fire Season is year round in Southern California; however, the Fire Department engages in short leases of specialized aircraft because predictable weather conditions dictate the need for increased water-dropping capacity during the late summer and fall seasons. The Fire Department's existing helicopter fleet is designed to handle most wildland fires that occur for the remaining portion of the year when weather conditions are not as severe.

Due to the historic low fuel moisture, fire weather and the continued drought, additional aerial firefighting resources are immediately needed to protect lives, property, and the environment this fire season. The Erickson Air-Crane Co., L.L.C. S-64E Helitanker will enhance the Fire Department's initial aerial attack on wildland fires. The Erickson Air Crane Co. has a fixed tank with a 2,600 gallon capacity and a patented self-filling snorkel pump system that is capable of using freshwater bodies that are a minimum of 18' deep. These unique features enable Erickson Air-Crane Co. to hydraulically draft water and immediately return to the fire. Erickson is one of two contractors certified to provide a Type I "heavy" helicopter with a self-filling fixed tank known as a "Helitanker." Currently, the other contractor does not have any Helitankers available. The benefits of the fixed tank is that it is more stable than the suspended bucket operations, which also provides for more accuracy on water drops in mountainous and/or windy conditions; and the fixed tank can mix water with Class "A" foam concentrate to substantially increase the extinguishing effectiveness of the water drops.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals:

Approval of the recommended action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal #2, by enhancing the quality and productivity of the County workforce.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Under the terms of the lease agreement, the rate for exclusive daily availability to the District is \$15,833 per day. The projected fixed cost of the 120-day lease agreement, including 100 flight hours, manpower personnel (e.g., pilots, ground crew, maintenance personnel, etc.), is \$2.5 million. Either party may terminate the lease for cause or convenience upon fifteen (15) days written notice.

The current 2007-08 Contract Aircraft Program for the Fire Department, budgeted at \$2.8 million, is based on the initial terms of the proposed agreements, reserve fund, and a spending authority of \$3.5 million. The reserve will be used for costs associated with additional flight hours incurred for any combination of the contract aircraft and/or term extensions to meet wildland fire conditions upon your Board's approval.

With your Board's approval of the attached appropriation adjustment, sufficient funding will be available in the Fire District's Operations Budget Unit for the lease agreement. There is no impact to net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

This will be an initial exclusive use contract with Erickson Air-Crane Co. which is established because of the dangerous fire weather and fuel conditions that exist in Los Angeles County.

The lease of the Helitanker falls under the statutory authority of the County's Purchasing Agent. However, because of the amount and nature of the "services" component associated with this lease (i.e., manpower personnel) which would exceed the authority of the Purchasing Agent, Board approval is required for the Purchasing Agent to proceed with this aspect of the acquisition.

The agreement will include provisions to change the start date and/or extend the agreement beyond the initial term upon written notice between parties. Should fire conditions warrant an extension, the Department will return to your Board for additional expenditure authority.

CONCLUSION


Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, please instruct the Executive Officer to return adopted copies of this letter to the following offices:

1. Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
Executive Office
1320 N. Eastern Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90063
2. Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
Materials Management Division
5801 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 100
Commerce, CA 90040
Attn: James Ealey, Division Chief

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
July 10, 2007
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3. Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
Financial Management Division
5801 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 130
Commerce, CA 90040
Attn: Helen Jo, Division Chief
4. Internal Services Department
Purchasing Division
1100 N. Eastern Avenue, Room 102
Los Angeles, CA 90063
Attn: Joe Sandoval, Division Manager

Respectfully submitted,



P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

PMF:mr

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

DEPT'S. No. 390-01

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE

July 5, 2007

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER.

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. WILL YOU PLEASE REPORT AS TO ACCOUNTING AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFOR

4-Vote
Fiscal Year 2007-08

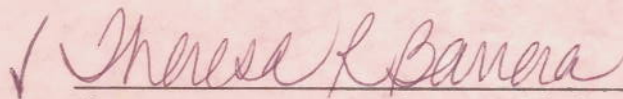
SOURCES:

Fire Department
Financing Elements
Designation for Budget Uncertainties
DAL-FR-40109-3047
\$ 2,500,000

USES:

Fire Department
Operations
Services & Supplies
DAL-FR-40215-2000
\$ 2,500,000

The Appropriation Adjustment is necessary to fund the exclusive use of an S-64E Helitanker.



Theresa Barrera, Assistant Chief, FMD

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

19B

JUL 03 2007


SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICERREFERRED TO THE CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR—

ACTION


RECOMMENDATION

APPROVED AS REQUESTED

AS REVISED

July 5, 2007

19


CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERAPPROVED (AS REVISED):
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

19

BY

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER BY

No.

004

19B of JULY 3, 2007

SEND 5 COPIES TO THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER